

the two copies of "Social Security" and the Year Book on Radiology. Some of these magazines we already have, yet we will be able to use whatever you send.

I wish to express the appreciation of every medical officer here, as well as that of myself, for this splendid contribution. It is nice to feel that the California Medical Association is keeping the welfare of its members in mind who may be stationed within or without the United States. It is promoting the finest spirit of coöperation and will aid materially in helping the work which we do at this hospital.

I wish to thank you for your offer of the loan of library material and I can assure you that we will be happy to avail ourselves of it.

Gratefully and fraternally yours,

(Signed) MERLE S. HARMON.

Lt. Col., MC.

Post Surgeon.

(COPY)

ARMY SERVICE FORCES

NINTH SERVICE COMMAND

Headquarters Mitchell Convalescent Hospital

Camp Lockett, California

C.M.A. Postgraduate Committee,
San Francisco, California.

Gentlemen:

We wish to express our appreciation for your offer of sending medical books and journals for the use of this station.

These books, when received, will be distributed to the members of our staff, and I feel certain that they will no doubt be interested in them.

We also wish to thank you for your having placed this station on the complimentary mailing list for your official journal, CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

The staff will also be advised of your offer for loans of material from the medical libraries in California, which you listed in your letter of October 31, 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

DONALD GREELY,

Major, Infantry.

Adjutant.

Concerning Proposal to Lower Medical Licensure Laws in California*:

(COPY)

P. M. SAVAGE, M.D., F.A.C.S.

San Bernardino, California

Dear Dr. Kress:

I wish to add my protest against the proposed plan of allowing all ex-army doctors to practice medicine in California upon a reciprocity basis.

We have sent some 40 doctors from our city alone—two of them my own sons—into the service. Myself and many of the other older men are hanging on and continuing the practice of medicine for two reasons only. One is that we feel it our patriotic duty and the other is to have a going practice to hand over to them when they return. If we over-supply California with doctors from other states we will be absolutely betraying a trust to our own men.

Thank you for your alertness in discovering and stopping this unjust procedure.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) PHILIP M. SAVAGE, M.D.

* For discussion of this problem, see CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, for October, on pages 179 and 211.

Concerning "C. and W. M.," in Military Camps:

(COPY)

Dear Doctor:

Have been at this station 6 months doing ENT chiefly, as well as some of the minor eye work. We are more than busy and are definitely short-handed as far as doctors are concerned.

CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE that I receive is very much enjoyed by me, and by many of the men from the other States who read it, and praise its quality.

Kindest personal regards,

(Signed) RUSSELL FLETCHER.

Concerning Costs of Bubonic Plague Control*:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear Doctor Kress:

In answer to your letter of September 18, attached is a statement of expenditure of funds for plague control for the present biennium and the tentative budget for the coming biennium.

It is quite likely that a large amount of the funds requested for the coming biennium will be diverted to mosquito abatement as related to malaria control. I should say, roughly, one-half of the funds will be used in this way, should they be made available.

Very sincerely yours,

WILTON L. HALVERSON, M.D.,

Director of Public Health.

Concerning Increased Costs of Malpractice Insurance:

(COPY)

San Francisco 4, November 18, 1944

Dear _____:

Your letter of November 10, 1944, addressed to Dr. George H. Kress, Secretary of the Medical Society of the State of California has been referred to us. My only suggestion with respect to the increased costs of malpractice insurance offered by Lloyds of London is that you might investigate the rates charged by other companies issuing malpractice policies. In addition to Lloyds of London which uses the standard form of malpractice policy approved by us, we have also examined and found satisfactory the policies issued by the Aetna Casualty & Surety Company and by the Medical Protective Society of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Policies issued by any one of these three companies would be satisfactory.

With respect to Dr. _____ who is in the military service, it has been our advice and recommendation that doctors in military service continue to carry malpractice insurance because of the possibility of malpractice action by an injured patient. The fact that a doctor may be in the military service does not absolve him from claims based on negligence which could be made by a soldier, sailor or other member of the military service treated by the doctor. Accordingly, we believe that Dr. _____ should have malpractice insurance.

In your letter you ask whether you should continue to carry insurance on Dr. _____. We assume that you do not mean insurance covering malpractice actions against the Clinic arising out of the acts of Dr. _____ while in the military service. We do not believe that insurance of this type would be necessary.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to call on us.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) HARTLEY F. PEART.

* For article on incidence of bubonic plague, see CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, for October, 1944, on page 218.